

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144693  
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 EUR-12 PM-05 INR-10 SS-15  
NSC-05 /061 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:D M WINN:LB  
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:J W TWINAM  
NEA/IRN:M JOHNSON (INFO)  
-----105216 080809Z /12-S

R 072303Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 144693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PDEF, TC

SUBJECT: POLITICAL TENSIONS IN THE UAE

REFERENCES: (A) ABU DHABI 1551, (B) STATE 141246, (C) ABU  
DHABI 1621, (D) ABU DHABI 1622

1. MUIR OF BRITISH EMBASSY JUNE 6 REVIEWED UAE SITUATION  
WITH ARP ALONG LINES REF C. (MUIR HAD EARLIER INFORMED US  
THAT BRITISH WERE APPROACHING SHEIKHS ZAYID AND RASHID, AS  
WELL AS IRANIAN AND SAUDI GOVERNMENTS. HE DID NOT AT THAT  
TIME, HOWEVER, RELAY TO US SUBSTANCE OF ROBERTS' MAY 8  
CONVERSATION WITH RASHID, DETAILS OF WHICH WE FIRST  
LEARNED FROM REF C).

2. IN JUNE 6 REVIEW, MUIR CONFIRMED ROBERTS' ACCOUNT AND  
ADDED THAT HMG HAD APPROACHED IRANIANS ON MAY 14 AND  
SAUDIS ON MAY 15 WITH REQUEST THAT THEY URGE RESTRAINT

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ON ABU DHABI AND DUBAI LEADERS. IRANIANS REPLIED THAT  
THEY HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO PRINCIPAL UAE PERSONALITIES  
BUT WOULD DO SO AGAIN. SAUDIS ALSO AGREED TO WEIGH IN.

3. MUIR GAVE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF MAY 20 MEETING OF  
BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL ARMITAGE WITH SHEIKH RASHID AND  
MAHDI TAJIR: ARMITAGE URGED RASHID "TO COMPOSE THE

COMPARATIVELY MINOR ISSUES" THAT DIVIDED EMIRATES' LEADERSHIP. RASHID WAS NONCOMMITTAL AND ONLY GRUNTED -- "PRESUMABLY AFFIRMATIVELY" -- IN RESPONSE. TAJIR COMMENTED IN RASHID'S PRESENCE HE HAD NO DOUBT BUT THAT RULERS WOULD PATCH UP THEIR DIFFERENCES. TOLD ABOUT BRITISH APPROACHES TO GOI AND SAG, RASHID ASSURED ARMITAGE THAT HE WOULD KEEP IRANIANS AND SAUDIS INFORMED.

4. MUIR CONFIRMED ROBERTS' ACCOUNT OF JUNE 6 MEETING WITH ZAYID.

5. MUIR COMMENTED THAT FCO HAD NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO APPROACH ZAYID AND RASHID FURTHER. CONTACTS THUS FAR, HE SAID, WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL, AS WERE APPROACHES BY AMBASSADOR DICKMAN. EMIRATES' RULERS NOW SEE CLEARLY WITH WHAT IMPORTANCE HMG AND USG VIEW COHESION OF UAE. FCO SHARES OUR GENERAL ASSESSMENT THAT DUBAI DEPARTURE FROM UAE WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL SECURITY BUT, WHILE RECOGNIZING DIFFICULTY OF ZAYID AND RASHID PATCHING UP THEIR PROBLEMS, HOPES THAT US/UK/IRANIAN/SAUDI APPROACHES TO RULERS MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, PDEV, TC  
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